



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 27, 2018

**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

**CITY COUNCIL PASSES MAYOR EMANUEL'S ORDINANCES  
TO COMPLETE WELLS-WENTWORTH PROJECT,  
IMPROVE CONNECTION BETWEEN SOUTH LOOP AND CHINATOWN**

The Chicago City Council today passed two ordinances introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to allow construction on the third and final phase of the Wells-Wentworth Connector project that will provide a direct link between the South Loop and Chinatown.

"Providing better connectivity between these two areas will help create more jobs, promote continued economic growth and improve the quality of life for local residents," Mayor Emanuel said. "These are the projects that matter to our residents and the ones the City will continue moving forward."

The ordinances allow for vacation of property in the area and authorize the City to enter into an agreement that allows the conveyance of property and modification of easements with the St. Charles Airline and Illinois Central Railroad Company railroads and the Chicago Park District.

When completed, the new roadway will extend Wells Street south from Roosevelt Road through the recently announced "The 78" project and connect to a new section of Wentworth at 16th Street on the north side of Chinatown.

The Wells-Wentworth project has been coordinated by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD).

Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2017 and reconstructed Wentworth Avenue between 17th and 19th Streets, adding a buffered bike lane and improving pedestrian and bicycle access to the Ping Tom Memorial Park Fieldhouse.

Phase 2 will begin this summer and will realign Wentworth Avenue between Archer Avenue and Cermak Road to bring Wentworth north of Cermak in line with the portion of Wentworth south of Cermak. The realignment will improve safety for both pedestrians and motorists, while creating better pedestrian connectivity between New Chinatown Square and the traditional Chinatown south of Cermak Road.

###